

Introduced by Senators Steinberg and Alquist
(Principal coauthors: Senators De León, Liu, Pavley, and Yee)
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield and Solorio)

February 8, 2012

An act to add Section 66408 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1053, as introduced, Steinberg. Public postsecondary education: California Digital Open Source Library.

The Donahoe Higher Education Act authorizes the activities of the 4 segments of the postsecondary education system in the state. These segments include the 3 public postsecondary segments: the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Private and independent postsecondary educational institutions constitute the other segment.

Provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the regents act, by resolution, to make them applicable.

Existing law urges textbook publishers to take specified actions aimed at reducing the amounts that students pay for textbooks, including providing to faculty and departments considering textbook orders a list of all the different products the publisher sells. Existing law requires the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and requests the Regents of the University of California, to take specific actions with

their respective academic senates, college and university bookstores, and faculty to promote the selection of textbooks that will result in cost savings to students.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to the cost of college and university textbooks. The bill would add provisions to the Donahoe Higher Education Act to establish the California Digital Open Source Library, under the joint administration of the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, for the purpose of housing open source materials while providing a Web-based way for students, faculty, and staff to easily find, adopt, utilize, or modify course materials for little or no cost. The bill would require that the materials in the library bear a creative commons attribution license that allows others to use, distribute, and create derivative works based upon the digital material while still allowing the authors or creators of the material to receive credit for their efforts.

The bill would become operative only if SB ____ becomes operative on or before January 1, 2013, and establishes the California Open Education Resources Council.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) The cost of attending California's public colleges and
- 4 universities has skyrocketed in recent years. While fees often tend
- 5 to be the most visible cost, other costs not related to tuition, such
- 6 as the cost of textbooks, significantly burden both students and
- 7 their families.
- 8 (2) For example, the average annual student budget for textbooks
- 9 at California's community colleges can be almost 150 percent of
- 10 the cost of tuition. Recent studies show that, due to the cost of
- 11 textbooks, many students forgo purchasing them altogether. For
- 12 many students receiving the Cal Grant B stipend intended for books
- 13 and other living expenses, such as transportation, rent, and food,
- 14 their entire stipend may be spent on textbooks alone.
- 15 (3) With open education resources (OER), California can offer
- 16 students in the 50 most widely taken lower division courses the

1 highest quality textbooks and related materials at no cost online
2 or for about \$20 per textbook in hardcopy.

3 (4) OER will bring California's college and university
4 experience into the 21st century while providing students and their
5 families with sorely needed financial relief and while providing
6 faculty more flexible and dynamic tools to enhance student success.

7 (5) As the state moves towards OER, students and families can
8 be provided immediate relief with more access to textbooks
9 available on reserve at campus libraries.

10 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to accomplish
11 both of the following:

12 (1) Create the California Digital Open Source Library to serve
13 as a statewide repository for high-quality digital open source
14 textbooks and related materials.

15 (2) Provide for the availability of free copies of textbooks to be
16 placed on reserve at campus libraries.

17 SEC. 2. Section 66408 is added to the Education Code, to read:

18 66408. (a) The California Open Source Digital Library is
19 hereby established and shall be jointly administered by the
20 University of California, the California State University, and the
21 California Community Colleges, for the purpose of housing open
22 source materials while providing a Web-based way for students,
23 faculty, and staff to easily find, adopt, utilize, or modify course
24 materials for little or no cost.

25 (b) All material in the California Open Source Digital Library
26 shall bear a creative commons attribution license that allows others
27 to use, distribute, and create derivative works based upon the digital
28 material while still allowing the authors or creators of the material
29 to receive credit for their efforts.

30 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the public postsecondary
31 educational segments provide incentives to assist and support
32 faculty in choosing lower cost alternatives such as open source
33 textbooks and related teaching tools.

34 SEC. 3. This act shall become operative only if Senate Bill
35 _____ of the 2011–12 Regular Session becomes operative on or
36 before January 1, 2013, and establishes the California Open
37 Education Resources Council.